

**CASCADE COUNTY
SHERIFF - CORONER'S
OFFICE**

EXHIBIT 4
DATE 1-26-07
HB _____

**OFFICE OF SHERIFF / CORONER
3800 ULM NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD
GREAT FALLS, MT. 59404**

**SHERIFF
David L. Castle**



**UNDERSHERIFF
C.B. Corneliusen**

To: Board of County Commissioners
From: Sheriff David Castle
Ref: Dept. of Corrections Contract

December 21, 2006

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing this letter in support of your direction with the Department of Corrections. I concur with the apparent dilemma and impasse in negotiations between D.O.C. and Cascade County. As you are aware Cascade County has been a good partner with the State and always operated in good faith toward the good of all. My staff and I have been negotiating with the State for over 2 years. All our other partners are paying an increased per diem. It is obvious to me that they are unwilling to recognize our history of partnership or pay their fair share of using our facility and community. With little chance of legislative relief, the only recourse is to discontinue our current contract with the state.

The problem as I see it, is that the State has taken advantage of our partnership due to the statewide dilemma they are experiencing with their management, detention and financial problems. The State is changing the plan and formula on how much of a partner they want to be. We can not continue with a contract or rules that do not mutually favor our County as well. The State has not operated in good faith. The State has failed or refused on almost every action they have taken, to understand the impact to the county.

In summary the State has made their agenda clear. This is a direct conflict to our local idea and goals in partnering to keeping our communities safe from crime and terrorism. I am charged to protect the citizens of this county, while you are charged to financially find ways to manage that protection. When we are forced to cover any cost of the detention with State inmates, we essentially have to be prepared for the consequences and liability in abandoning our critical law enforcement needs. Their mission does not have the broad scope or effect that local government offers. I know that when we are asked as the elected officials to answer the problems in the future, it will be you or I standing in front of our neighborhoods, businesses, churches, schools, parents and citizens explaining what went wrong and why? We will never have the Department of Corrections at our side.

Respectfully, Sheriff David Castle

David Castle